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In this edition we offer a range of subjects with a concentration on Latin America. We welcome Brian Stickney who offers an important article about the early decades of independent Bolivia minting. In addition to Stickney we have three articles on colonial Spanish America (two from your editor and another by Sewall Menzel). Robert Ronus writes on a curious *kipper* period taler welcoming information from readers. James Martin submitted an article about a rousing theme on a recent Indian coin. We also have selected some articles that I found interesting in recent auctions. The ARS Classica description of Athenian treasure stored in the form of gold plates overlaying Nikes is absolutely fascinating and to see coins made from them is awesome. The small picture here from *Harper's Weekly*, August 6, 1892, is an artist's illustration of the towering figure of *Athena Parthenos* holding Nike.

Herman



Bolivian Mintage Figures Revealed (1830 – 1858)

Brian R. Stickney, NI #2761

Bolivia declared its independence as a sovereign nation August 6, 1825. One of the many issues to be resolved was establishing a new, acceptable monetary regime. Bolivia, like Mexico, was fortunate in this regard in that it had both a well-developed mining industry and a fully functioning mint. In fact, the colonial mint at Potosi was one of the more prolific in the New World when it comes to generating silver coin as documented in excruciating detail by Lazo, volume III. Gold production was comparatively muted in Bolivia and not coined until 1778. But the legendary *Cerro de Potosi* generated large quantities of silver fueling the mint that was established there in 1575. Potosi typically produced well in excess of a million pesos of silver coin annually, for generations, the peso of the era being equal to eight reales.

Bolivia wasted little time in addressing monetary issues. Its Constituent Assembly passed the new country's first monetary law August 17, 1825 a mere eleven days after declaring itself a sovereign state. The decree was brief, numbering only eight paragraphs. The first stated that the gold and silver coins of the new republic would be the same diameter, weight, and fineness as those used (under Spanish rule) up to that time. Thus, the largest sized silver piece was 38 mm and weighed 27 grams, 0.903 fine. Subdivisions were proportional. The obverse, reverse and rim designs were changed completely, however, to reflect national symbols and legends.

There is some confusion with respect to denominations and what the new coins would be called. Regarding silver, standard catalogues such as Gutttag and Krause call them "*soles*." Asbun-Karmy, the *Banco Central*, Beal, and Fonrobert labeled Bolivia's early silver denominations as "*sueldos*." None would appear to be precisely correct. A reading of 1825 monetary law found in Baptista, page 151, is not completely clear and makes no references to *sueldos, per se*. The seventh article addresses the question of silver denominations. Essentially it states that the principal silver coin will keep the name of *peso*, but will be divided into eight *soles*, not *reales* as before. "*La moneda fuerte conservará el nombre de peso; su división será en ocho soles, y no reales como antes.*" Technically, then, Bolivia's largest silver denomination would be called a peso. In fact, mint reports of the period record cumulative values of coins struck in terms of pesos. But all denominations of the era bear an abbreviated numerical designation at the base of their reverse indicating "8S", "4S", "2S", etc., suggesting that the term *soles* was applied to all silver denominations. Article eight of the same law addresses gold coins but simply focuses on design features without denominating the coins, *per se*. As with silver issues of this early period, the reverses carry the same designations of "8S", "4S", etc. A second monetary law issued November 18, 1826 did nothing to clarify the official nomenclature to be used, simply modifying design features which ultimately were used beginning 1827 for silver and in 1831 for gold.

Bolivia struck silver coins 0.903 fine for the three years 1827 thru 1829 at which point a major policy change was instituted. Bolivia was governed by Andrés Santa Cruz from 1829 to 1839, the hero of Ayacucho. A born leader, Santa Cruz contributed greatly to the establishment as a new sovereign state. Economically, his policies were protectionist and the government took the decision October 10, 1829 to generate debased coinage for lower denominations. Ostensibly, the measure was thought to stimulate internal commerce since it would allow the mint to strike a larger number of

fractional coins from a given amount of silver to facilitate small transactions. In reality, it was used to underwrite the government and the mint's administrative costs and raised concerns about the viability of Bolivia's coinage as a whole. This was aggravated in that the design features adopted in 1825 and 1826 did not incorporate an indication of the coin's metallic quality; only the assayer's initials.

*Cuenta Del feble liquido las partidas de plata
presente año. de 1830*

Nº 1º

En 1º de febrero hasta 7 de abril de 1830, Rindio el Mtro.

*Fue en una partida de plata sencilla acuñada tres mil
siguientes marcos en la forma siguiente. A saber:*

De 4.	900.	7.650.	7.671.4.	21.4.
2.	1.300.	11.050.	11.072.6.	29.6.
1.	775.	6.587.4.	6.614.	21.0.
1/2.	625.	5.312.4.	5.328.4.	16.0.
	3.600.	30.600.	30.693.6.	88.2.

Monthly report (Feb 1 to Mar 7, 1830) indicating that 3,600 *marcos* (marks) of silver was used to strike four denominations of coins (4, 2, 1, 1/2 soles) totaling 30,600 pesos, nominal value. The silver in these subsidiary coins was 0.666 fine.

Essentially, the 1829 decree reduced the amount of silver to be used in the fractional coins of four, two, one and half *soles* (*desde tostón abajo*) to eight dineros which is 0.666 fine. The weight, diameter and designs were to remain the same and all such minor coins were to continue circulating at their nominal value. The decree did not change the specifications for the “*peso fuerte*” or eight-soles which continued being 0.903 fine. In compliance, the mint at Potosi began striking the debased coinage February 1, 1830 (above) and continued to do so in one form or another for the next 40 years. Those produced the first 22 years or so constituted “*restrikes*,” e.g., bearing the same date, 1830, with no indication of the quality of silver used either on the obverse or reverse. The government was not forthcoming in announcing the 1829 decree.

Interestingly, Bolivia's policy of producing debased minor coinage provides us assistance in pinpointing mintage figures for selected issues after independence. Gross annual data for both gold and silver coins has been available for some time. The US Bureau of American Republics' Bulletin 55, published in 1892, for example focused on Bolivia's mining and smelting industry. Pages 61 and 62 tabulate annual mintage figures for both gold and silver coins for the years 1825 through 1891, inclusive. The problem is that the silver figures included all classes of coinage (both 0.903 and 0.666

fine) incorporating a number of denominations. Benavides does much the same in his 1972 reference, but importantly, breaks down silver coins in the two major categories of *Ley 10D 20G* (0.903) and *Ley 8D* (0.666) for the years 1830 thru 1839. Subsequent, tables use the headings *Monedas Fuertes* and *Monedas Febles*. The importance of this is that the higher grade silver was used only for the crown-sized coins of eight-soles or pesos for most years until 1859. Thus, the annual peso values for those coins tabulated under the headings of *Ley 10D 20G* or *Monedas Fuertes* are tantamount to the annual mintage figures. Those figures found in Benavides are corroborated by a detailed inspection and tabulation of a half-dozen annual reports (monthly excerpt, below) of the period, copies of which are in the author's library. Thus, one may conclude that the number of eight-soles coins struck in 1830, for example, was 1,583,082 pieces found in table one. Other series are found in tables two through four. We cannot draw the same conclusions with respect to minor coinage (0.666 fine) since multiple denominations were generated for those years produced, most bearing the "restrike" date 1830.

1º

En 30 de Enero de 1836 vino el Jto Fiel
una partida de Plata Doble con diez y siete
mil Trecientos marcos en la forma Sigiente
De a 8. ... 17. 300, 147. 0 50., 147. 44 9.8

Monthly report for January, 1836 showing that 17,300 marcos of silver were used to produce 147,050 coins (pesos) of the eight-soles denomination. Each marco weighed eight ounces and could yield 8.5 pesos worth of coin. Silver used for striking pesos (eight soles) was 0.903 fine.

Table 1
Potosi Mint
Silver Coin Production, by Year
8 Soles (Pesos), 0.903 Fine; KM 97
Minor Coinage (4, 2, 1, 1/2 Soles), 0.666 Fine
(Values in Pesos)

Year	Silver, 0.903	Silver, 0.666*
1830	1,583,082	206,218
1831	1,678,750	211,242
1832	1,555,049	306,909
1833	1,640,355	313,891
1834	1,652,400	309,400
1835	1,471,069	509,090
1836	1,644,129	303,186
1837	1,768,510	301,573
1838	1,565,496	492,005
1839	1,887,850	566,905
1840	2,086,172	524,335

Sources: (a) Benavides, J; pp. 42 and 48;
(b) Potosi Mint Feble Reports, selected years
(c) BAR: Cumulative Annual Figures; pp. 60 and 61
*Minor coinage all dated 1830



Mintage figures for this eight-soles (peso), 1832, and KM-97 counterparts may be found in the first column of Table 1 above

Table 2
Potosi Mint
Silver Coin Production, by Year
8 Soles (Pesos), Moneda Fuerte, 0.903; KM 103; A103
Minor Coinage (4, 2, 1, and 1/2 Soles); 0.666
(Values in Pesos)

Year	Silver, 0.903	Silver, 0.666
1841	1,396,550	917,456
1842	1,255,705	1,166,531
1843	1,126,248	1,001,963
1844	921,204	1,094,341
1845	1,620,516	299,395
1846	1,043,842	363,744
1847	586,270	1,316,599
1848	770,683	1,266,479

Sources: (a) Benavides, J; p. 48;
(b) BAR: Cumulative Annual Figures; pp. 60 and 61
*Minor coinage all dated 1830



(Image courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com): Auction 410 lot 12293)

The obverse of the eight-soles coins, or pesos, was changed with little fanfare for most of the 1840s, mintage figures for which are found in Table 2, above.

Table 3
Potosi Mint
Silver Coin Production, by Year
8 Soles (Pesos), Moneda Fuerte, 0.903; KM 109
Minor Coinage (4, 2, 1, and 1/2 Soles); 0.666
(Values in Pesos)

Year	Silver, 0.903	Silver, 0.666
1848	i.a.	i.a.
1849	671,074	947,270
1850	771,672	1,248,224
1851	885,092	1,416,192

Sources: (a) Benavides, J; p. 48;

(b) BAR: Cumulative Annual Figures; pp. 60 and 61

*Minor coinage all dated 1830



(Image courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com): Auction 410 lot 16206)

In the late 1840s, Bolivia added a designation (10/20) on the reverse to certify the silver's purity as 10 dineros / 20 granos which is 0.903 fine. They also dropped the "8S" designation for its denomination.

In the late 1840s the Government of Bolivia made additional changes to design features to the eight-soles (peso) coin, the most obvious of which was the modified profile of Bolívar. More importantly, however, were changes to the reverse, especially putting a small number “10” to the left of the tree trunk and “20” to the right. These numbers conformed to Spanish designations *10 Dineros 20 Grains*, indicating for the first time the quality of silver as being 0.903 fine. No such indication was applied to the subsidiary coinage of the era, the policy being to downplay the reduced purity of silver used in those issues. While the original intent of debasing the country’s minor coinage was to facilitate internal commerce, the policy’s unintended consequence was the opposite. Gresham’s Law took effect, and Bolivia found that merchants were using the higher denomination coins containing higher silver content to conduct international transactions. This is because foreign entities refused to accept debased minor coins in payment for shipments destined for Bolivia. Thus, the heavier coins tended to be exported to satisfy foreign debt and payments while the debased coin stayed at home. Application of the appropriate marks on the crown-sized coins was implemented to reassure traders that the peso was 0.903 fine. One must also note that the reverse no longer contained the “8S” designation for the coins denomination. Internal memos of the mint at Potosí dated 1848 labeled silver coins as being “pesos of eight reales,” gold coins being denominated as “escudos.”

Table 4
Potosí Mint
Silver Coin Production, by Year
8 Soles (Pesos), Moneda Fuerte, 0.903; KM 112.1 and 112.2
(Values in Pesos)

Year	Silver, 0.903
1852	499,851
1853	95,930
1854	49,384
1855	63,401
1856	26,949
1857*	3,458
1858*	23,547

Source: (a) Benavides, J; p.48.

* No such date listed in numismatic catalogues; possible restrikes



(Image courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com): Auction 410 lot 16207)

Production of crown-sized coins at full weight and content fell sharply in the mid-1850s as Bolivia struggled with how to deal with the disparity in the values of pesos vice subsidiary coinage.

Data to pinpoint mintage figures became obscure by the late 1850's. In part this is because the government began to experiment with the issuance of subsidiary coinage, 0.903 fine, notably the *Tostón Frías*, authorized in 1859. According to Benavides, page 50, the government struck 1,182,193 of these four-real pieces in 1860 (KM-139) to begin rebalancing the value of circulating currency. The initiative was short-lived, given the high rate of government turnover during these turbulent years. More importantly, however, from the standpoint of data clarity, Bolivia began striking a variety of "pesos" in 1859. Although they contained high-grade silver, they were notably reduced in size from 27 grams to 20 grams (400 *granos castellanos*), thus, obscuring the valuations ascribed to production figures. Shortly thereafter, the treasury began gravitating toward the decimal system. In the mid-1860s and early 1870s the Potosi mint began striking bolivianos, a coin which was more universal (25 grams, 37 mm, 0.900 fine) in that it complied with standards embraced by the Latin Monetary Union. Chile, Peru and Venezuela did the same about this time, essentially making their crowns virtually interchangeable.

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Brian Stickney is a retired senior Foreign Service officer who served some 30 years abroad in seven different postings. An economist by training both at the undergraduate and graduate levels, he specializes in Latin American coinage. He has written several articles and books on the topic over the years. He is a member of the American Numismatic Society, the American Numismatic Association and the International Coin Club of El Paso.

NI

**Lombardy: Half Siliqua of Perctarit
Herman Blanton, NI #LM115**



Lombardy. Perctarit (672-688) Half-Siliqua posthumous (700-725). Obv.: PER. Rev.: imprint of obverse incuse and mirrored. Silver, 0.23g. Arslan 30; MEC 28-29. (Image and description used with permission from *Varesi numismatica* auction 64, 29 April 2014, lot 599.)

Perctarit (also called Berthari; died 688) was king of the Lombards from 661 to 662 the first time and later from 671 to 688. He ruled from Milan during the dark ages of European history.

● PER

Monogram image: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perctarit>

To view on-line source of information on Perctarit:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20110523123243/http://www.germantribes.org/tribes/Lombards/Lombard%20Rulers/kingsline.htm>

NI

A Kipper Taler of Stralsund Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

One of the most striking coats of arms of any German city is surely the arrowhead formed by three hunting horns of Stralsund, on the Baltic in northern Germany. You can see it on this impressive Taler struck in the name of Emperor Ferdinand III in 1640.



Obv. Outer legend: MONETA•NOVA•CIVITATIS•STRALSUND•1640•.

Middle legend: PRAESIDIUM•PORTAE•NOSTRAE•ET•PAX•.

Inner legend: +•CHRISTUS• rosette •IESUS• [Christ Jesus, defence of our gate and peace] •CS• [= Casper Sievers, mint master, 1636-62]. The cross over three hunting horns in form of arrowhead pointing upwards.

Rev. •FERDINANDUS•III•D•G•ROM•IM•S•A•. Crowned double eagle with 32 (schilling) in orb on breast.

Size: 42 mm, 28.30 g.

References: Dav. 5832. Bratring 81b. Slg. Pogge 1489. KM 104. Ahl.SB.8a.

Interestingly, Stralsund continued to issue such coins in the name of the Emperor even after its capture by the Swedes in 1637. The city remained under Swedish control until it was ceded to Prussia in 1815.

I recently came across an interesting variation of these arms on a Kipper Taler of 1622, issued in the name of Emperor Ferdinand II. The so-called Kipper and Wipperzeit between 1618-22 was a period of devastating currency debasement and monetary chaos at the beginning of the Thirty Years' War. A picture and description follow.



Obv. MONETA•NOVA•STRAL•SUN•DEN•SIS• decoration. Cross over three hunting horns in form of arrowhead pointing downwards, dividing 1622, in circle.

Rev. FERDINANDUS•II•D:G•ROMA•IM•PER•SE•AVG• 4 dots crown 4 dots. Crowned double eagle with 32 (schilling) in orb on breast.

Size: 42.5 mm, 23.12 g.

References: Bratring 31v. Slg. Pogge 1445v. Not in Dav. or KM.

At first glance the arms seem the same. However, the arrowhead points down, not up; I have never seen this on a Stralsund coin.

The Kipperzeit came to an end in 1623 and the Imperial coinage standards were re-established. Pictured is a humble 1/16 Taler or *Düttchen* issued in 1624, just two years after our Kipper Taler. Note that the arrowhead points upwards, with the cross below:



Obv. GELT (mm) DER•STAD•STRALSVND•. Arrowhead pointing upwards over cross, in circle.

Rev. REICH•SCHROT•VND•KORN• (Imperial standard and weight). Inside circle •16•/REICH/TALER/•1624•.

Size: 28 mm, 3.04 g.

References: Bratring 43. KM 46.

Returning to the 1622 Kipper Taler with the down pointing arrow, Bratring makes the following comment: “the strike is worse than usual and the silver less good but the weight only about 1 gram lighter.”

I suspected that the Kipper Taler would not have the standard silver content. However, Dr. Tom Pesacreta of the University of Louisiana kindly did a spectrographic analysis for me and reported that the three coins illustrated all had virtually the same silver content: about 96 % silver for both the 1622 and 1640 Talers and about 94 % for the 1/16 Taler. On the other hand, the Kipper Taler coin here is only 23.12 g, about 6 g lighter than a standard Taler. I understand that the Coin Cabinet at the Bode Museum in Berlin has an example of the Bratring coin and the weight is 27.7 g, indeed about 1 g lighter than the standard weight.

The coin here thus appears to be of the period but not struck at the official Stralsund mint. The chaotic Kipper Period saw numerous mints put into operation, some with varying degrees of rulers' involvement and some completely illegal. This coin was probably struck at such a mint in the Stralsund region.

Examining the reverse, the value 32 at the centre of the eagle on the reverse seems to have been reworked over another figure, perhaps 28. Did the mintmaster originally plan to issue the coin as a 28 Schilling piece and then amidst increasing inflation decide to change it to 32 Schillings? The coin in the Bode Museum seems to have been similarly reworked.

I would be interested to hear from anyone with further information on this interesting Kipper coin.

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Membership Report

The following person(s) have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by September-1-2014 the memberships are effective that day.

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The following Member(s) are deceased. NI Membership extends our deepest sympathy to their families.

LM98 Don Brew of Superior, WI



India's Kuka Movement Coin Depicts Executions

James Martin, NI #2657

Lord Macaulay's Address to the British Parliament: February, 1835

I have traveled across the length and breadth of India and I have yet seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief, such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country, unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural heritage, and, therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation.



150 Years of Kuka Movement

5 Rupees coin in brass alloy: 6 g. and 23 mm. Obv.: The Lions of Ashoka standing over the wheel of Ashoka Chakra. Rev.: Central figure is Satguru Ram Singh Ji with executions occurring behind.

Two coins issued by the Republic of India in 2013 are the most recent of the few coins depicting the act of human execution. These coins commemorate the 150th year of the *Namdhari*, or *Kuka* Movement. The dates celebrated are 1857 - 2007, and while the design was completed in 2009, they were not dedicated until 2012 and not released for issue and sale until April 2013. The five Rupees coin, shown here, was released for circulation, while the similarly designed silver 100 Rupees is a low mintage 'non-circulating legal tender' issue. For anti-counterfeiting reasons it is the policy of the Republic of India not to publish mintage figures, even for NCLT coins.

The most interesting feature of this coin's design is the background theme depicting two forms of execution, one by hanging, and the other by canon blast. As with many coins, when you delve into the history surrounding them, you will reveal a fascinating story, of which you may know little about.

First of all, a little background on the world's fifth largest religion with about 30 million adherents. The Sikh faith is a revealed monotheistic religion that is without a priesthood, but are guided by gurus. Through a succession of ten gurus spanning the formation of the faith in the 15th century, to last guru in the 18th century, the tenets of

this highly moralistic religion were solidified. Men reaching a high degree of adherence were initiated into the faith, and were said to be *Khalsa* (genuine and pure). With the First and Second Anglo-Sikh wars these Khalsa were formed into an army to physically and spiritually defend the faith. *Namdhari* Sikhs (Kukas) are a sect of the main Sikh faith with a major difference being the belief that the guru line of succession continues to the present day. In outward appearance the Namdharis always wear white cotton robes and their turbans are wrapped in certain fashion.

The central figure on the reverse is that of Satguru Ram Singh Ji, a Sikh and a soldier in the *Khalsa* army. Born in 1816 in the village of Bhaini, in the Ludhiana district of the Punjab (NW India) he participated in the Battle of Mudki (Dec 18, 1845). This critical battle of Sikh forces against the British forces of the East India Company was a defeat for the Sikhs even though the British lost many men, including prominent officers. Satguru Ram Singh (aka Baba Ram Singh) gave up service in the Sikh Khalsa army soon after the occupation of Lahore and returned to the village of his birth. There he gained a considerable following in the Namdhari Sikh faith after preaching and organizing for nearly twenty years. Upon the death (1862) of Bhai Balak Singh the duties of guru fell to Satguru Ram Singh. With his ascendancy Satguru Ram Singh began to organize a shadow government with the main purpose of promoting and expanding the Namdhari Sikh faith. His beliefs were very liberal for the time and became popular among some of all the various classes of people. The main tenets were: 1) abolish all class/caste distinctions; 2) advocate marriage among all the former classes, including widows, and restrict dowries and marriage expenses; 3) abstinence from liquor and drugs; 4) abolish the infanticide of girls; and, 5) increase the reverence for cows. Taken together, these, and the other tenets, were designed to purify their religion and to strengthen their society for the impending struggle.

While the near total domination of the British brought new technologies and opportunities to the Indian subcontinent, strong armed methods and societal changes also brought considerable disruption, particularly for rural Indians. Therefore, by 1857 several Indian independence and religious movements had risen to resist these undesirable foreign influences.

The 'Indian Revolt of 1857' (aka "The Sepoy Rebellion") lasted until June of 1858 and led directly to the dissolution of the British East India Company, and to Queen Victoria becoming the Empress of India. The spark that sent off the wider revolt was the rumor among the *sepoys* (Indian infantrymen in the service of the British E. India Co.) that the new Enfield rifle cartridge packages were greased against corrosion by beef tallow and pork lard. The Hindu and Muslim troops could not avoid contact with this substance in the bullet packaging, which they tore open with their teeth. Hindu soldiers had religious restrictions to contact with beef products and Muslims soldiers had serious objections to pork product contact. Thus, the British had managed to offend nearly everyone in their army used to quell revolt and enforce policy. This was all the impetus needed for other disaffected groups to join the revolt. Princely state rulers were aggrieved by new changes in the inheritance laws that forbade their families from maintaining ownership of areas nominally independent of British control. Land reforms that confiscated the property of large land owners, distributing it to the peasants, came with heavy taxes that could not be paid by the new owners. Additionally, the Company meddled in traditional and religious practices. The Hindu practice of *sati* was forbidden in an attempt to modernize the culture. This practice involved the burning, or burial, of the widow when her husband died. While often a voluntary sacrifice, too often it

appeared to be enforced by the use of drugs and coercion to gain compliance. British sensibilities felt that the *caste system* was unfair and they tried to undermine that ingrained tradition as well. Christian missionaries were actively preaching to the sepoys. The Indians believed, quite reasonably, that their religions were under attack by the East India Company. Finally, the Indians had serious objections to the British legal system that was forced upon them. When the Indian people entered the British legal system, justice was swift and often brutal. However, when a British soldier committed a crime against the inhabitants, traditional judicial recourse could not be applied. This type of real, and perceived, injustice was also a major factor in the Boxer Rebellion in China some forty years later.

Satguru Ram Singh's tactics against British domination were characterized by non-violence and non-cooperation, but these methods too raised the ire of the new British administration (Raj). After the 1857 revolt all resistance groups were under surveillance and various forms of suppression. Satguru Ram Singh began a policy of shunning everything that was British. The English school system, law courts, and goods were boycotted and replaced. The British postal system was avoided, and he began his own clandestine postal system (India's first) to prevent being spied upon. In a practice called *Swadeshi*, British goods were boycotted and replaced by Indian native crafts. The self-production of white cotton cloth that was universally worn among the Namdhari Sikhs, called *khadi*, was encouraged and this renewed cottage industry bolstered the incomes of the poor. He even began diplomatic relations with neighboring countries like Russia, Nepal and Afghanistan. In effect, Baba Ram Singh had set up a parallel government to resist the British. This effort by the Namdhari Sikhs lasted from 1857 to 1917.

Every momentous movement has its setbacks. The Kuka had theirs when a group of them decided to break from their practice of non-violence. In June 1871, in response to sacrilege at certain Sikh religious shrines, these Kukas attacked a Muslim operated slaughter house, killed several butchers and set the cows free. They fled but the British desire for swift justice led to the executions of twelve innocent Hindus and Sikhs. Baba Ram Singh urged the guilty to come forth and confess and thus four additional Kukas were executed in September of 1871. The quick trial and execution of twelve innocents reinforced the low regard Indians had for the British legal system as it applied in the British Raj.

Further attacks by renegade Kukas led to the executions depicted on the coins celebrating the 150th Year of the Kuka Movement. Against the advice of Baba Ram Singh a large group of Kukas attacked Malerkotla in January 1872. Here, about 88 Kukas were captured and eventually executed or imprisoned for life. Some were hanged but the majority suffered execution by being tied, and blasted by cannon fire! Satguru Ram Singh, and eleven of his closest followers, were deported to Rangoon Burma where some believed he died in 1885. His methods of non-violent resistance to the British Raj were proven effective when similar tactics were employed successfully by Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi, and others, beginning in 1919. India declared of independence on August 15, 1947

The martyrs' gruesome form of execution lives on in the minds of Namdhari Sikhs and on the coin design celebrating the 150th Year of the Kuka Movement. Other coins struck celebrating the events of the mid-19th century period of revolt and resistance are the '150th Year of the Indian Postal Service', and the '1857 First War of Independence'

commemorative coins.

Nearly all of the coins of the Republic of India feature the Lions of Ashoka (sometimes called the column, or pillars, of Asoka) on the obverse, either prominently or in miniature. These pillars with their exquisite sculptures were mostly erected by the Maurya Empire's King Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE. The history of King Ashoka and his pillars is very interesting, to learn more about them, and see photos and maps, I direct the reader to the following link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillars_of_Ashoka



Attica, Athens: Tetradrachm circa 546-527 BC
Numismatica Ars Classica



Tetradrachm circa 546-527 BC, AR 17.31 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested Athenian helmet and disc earring; at base of crest, dots in triangles of zigzag pattern. Rev. AΘE Owl, with closed wings, standing r. with head facing; in upper l. field, olive-twig with three leaves; all within partially incuse square. Svoronos pl. 4, cf. 41-42. Seltman group Gi, cf. 174. Very rare. A very intriguing issue in unusually fine condition, struck on a broad flan and about extremely fine Ex Gorny & Mosch sale 1999, 144.

Reprinted with permission of ARS Classica Numismatica, Auction 77, 26 May 2014, lot 44.



Attica, Athens: Didrachm or stater circa 407-404 BC
Numismatica Ars Classica



Didrachm or stater circa 407-404 BC, AV 8.61 g. Head of Athena r., wearing crested Attic helmet decorated with spiral palmette and two olive leaves. Rev. AΘE Owl standing r. with closed wings, head facing; before, branch upwards and behind, olive sprig with one berry. All within incuse square. Jameson 2495 (this reverse die). ACGC 202 (this reverse die). Robinson ANSMN 9, 1960, pl. II, 9 (this reverse die). One of the greatest rarities of the entire Greek series, only the fifth specimen known. An issue of tremendous historical interest and importance, a minor scuff on obverse, otherwise about extremely fine Privately purchased in 1999.

Few Greek coins are as historically significant as the gold issued by Athens in the closing years of the Peloponnesian War. Surrounded by a besieging army of Spartans and their allies, Athens was brought to its knees in the midst of military defeat, bankruptcy, starvation and plague. Thus ended the most famous of the ancient Greek wars, but not before the Athenians had stripped the plating from their golden Nikai and converted it into gold coins that included the drachm offered here.

In 431 BC Athens and her rival Sparta descended into a two-stage war that raged until 404. From the outset the war had weighed heavily on the Athenian coffers, and over time the costs had depleted the city's mining proceeds, state savings, temple treasuries, taxes, and annual tribute from her reluctant allies. The year 413 was especially hurtful to the Athenian cause. The Spartans captured Deceleia, in northern Attica, and in doing so not only caused 20,000 Athenian slaves to defect, but interrupted the main overland route by which Athens received food, supplies, and the output of its silver mines at Laureion. Then, the armada that Athens had sent against Syracuse was utterly destroyed. The cost in terms of ships and manpower was on such a scale that Athens found it impossible to recover its power and prestige. Revolts were sparked among members of the Delian League, which encouraged the Spartans and Persians to amplify their efforts. Athens survived the next few years by tapping into a reserve treasury of some 1,000 talents of silver, the equivalent of about 1.5 million tetradrachms. However, by 407 or 406 Athens was no longer able to issue silver coinage, and it forged an unprecedented monetary policy: a dual-level system comprised of a 'token' coinage of silver plated coins (and perhaps validated bronze tokens), and a gold coinage. The

scholastic notes to Aristophanes' *Frogs* (718-33) indicate that the gold coins were struck in 407/6, and that silver-plated coins were struck in the year that followed. However, they probably were issued at the same time if they were meant to be the two components of an emergency monetary system. In recent years, the theory that bronze coins were officially struck in Athens at this time has been effectively opposed. It would seem that the fiduciary coins consisted of plated silver pieces, principally tetradrachms and drachms of the familiar Athenian type, and that private-issue copper tokens (*kollyboi*) may have been validated by the government to augment the money supply. For its gold bullion the Athenians turned to offerings stored on the Acropolis and the gold-covered statues of Nike, which in recent years had become emblems of the city's great economic reserves. These emergency funds were used to build and outfit a new fleet that in 405 was defeated at Aegospotami in the Hellespont by the Spartan general Lysander. The victorious Lysander then invested the city of Athens, which surrendered in the spring of 404, bringing an end to the Peloponnesian War. The Athenian gold from the war is uncommonly well documented for an ancient coinage. The bullion was stripped from seven of the eight golden *Nikai* on the Acropolis; each statue was covered in about two talents worth of gold in the form of removable plates. Robinson estimates that the husks of those statues, along with some additional reserves, would have allowed for the production of about 100,000 drachms weight in gold. That being the case, a very large quantity of these coins could have been struck and their production may have continued from 407 well into 404. Unfortunately, only a handful of these gold coins survive today, suggesting that almost every piece was secreted away and eventually was consigned to the melting pot. Five denominations of 'emergency' gold coins are known to have survived: the didrachm (*stater*) of about 8.60 grams, the drachm (*half-stater*) of about 4.30 grams, the hemidrachm (*quarter-stater*) of about 2.15 grams, the diobol ('*hecte*') of about 1.45 grams, and the obol ('*hemihecte*') of about 0.70 grams. A sixth denomination perhaps can be added to the list, for an account of the treasurers of Athens entered sometime after 385/4 B.C. (*Inscriptiones Graecae* II, 1414, lines 6-7) records the receipt of two gold hemiobols. These coins, presumably, would have been 1/24th *staters* weighing about 0.35 grams. Perhaps the most fascinating piece of evidence concerning these gold coins comes from another Athenian treasurer's report (*Inscriptiones Graecae* II, 1408, lines 11-13), which also was created a generation or more after the Athenian surrender. The remarkable inscription describes how "the dies and the little anvils on which they used to strike the gold coins" were still preserved in a wooden box with the public seal.

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Quiz: The Science and Tools of Numismatics

Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134

1. Ancient dies were called the *pila* and *truxele*. Which one did the coiner hold in his hand?
2. What is the purpose of the third die, the collar?
3. How is the hole put in struck coins like the Japanese 5 and 50 Yen coins?
[Answer courtesy of Dick Johnson, formerly of Medallic Arts Co.]
4. Why was tin such a valuable metal to the ancients?



A 1920 Sydney Mint Sovereign
St James's Auctions



George V, sovereign, 1920S, bare head l., rev. St. George and the dragon, S raised on ground-line above date, horse with long tail (S.4003; McD.264; KM.29; Fr.38; Marsh 280), some light surface marks, virtually as struck, mint mark bold, with famous die combination featuring a pickled or rusted reverse die.

ex Jacob Garrard, April 1920. Thence by descent to daughter / granddaughter
ex Noble Numismatics Sydney, Australia, Sale 50, 20-22 March 1996, lot 1470
Private treaty into 'George' collection by Monetarium Australia Pty Ltd.

This is a legendary offering which includes recently discovered information that may help to solve the 'enigma' partially explained in the Bentley sale catalogue's description of that collection's 1920 Sydney sovereign. In that sale, the coin was called the rarest of all issues of the sovereign series, rarer even than the famed 1819 sovereign struck at London, of which some 10-12 examples exist compared to perhaps 4-5 (one impounded in the Royal Australian Mint Collection) of the 1920 Sydney issue. Of the 4 pieces for which sales have been traced, apparently the finest known, called a Specimen in the Quartermaster Collection sale of 2009, seems to have been struck at a later date (1926) from a reverse die that was cleared of the residue which protected it during the long sea voyage from England to Australia. This residue accounts for the 'pickled' or slightly rough appearance of the reverse, a characteristic of all other known examples. The normal satiny gold texture exists on the obverse of all. The Bentley sale cataloguer concluded by suggesting that this coin's great rarity did not arise from any melting of the reported mintage at Sydney for the year (which he believed represented coins dated 1919 but struck in January and June 1920 at Sydney) but instead that no pieces were struck during 1920 bearing the date and S mint mark except because of some 'special event' in the year which was unknown at the time of the Bentley sale.

The provenance of the presently offered coin dates precisely to April 1920 and may well explain that 'special event' and the coin's great rarity. Researcher Barrie Winsor of Australia has identified the family who placed a special order for sovereigns dated 1920 at the Sydney Mint in 1920. A prominent New South Wales politician and trade unionist. Mr. Jacob Garrard (Note 1) ordered and purchased the sovereigns from the Mint in order to present them to his children when he and his wife, Rebecca, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 15 April 1920. Barrie Winsor has interviewed

some of the Garrard descendants to confirm the facts and has also seen photographs [one of which is printed in the St. James's Auctions catalog—*Ed.*] of the family taken during the anniversary meetings. Five sons and two daughters were the subjects of the gifts; the exact number of sovereigns minted for the Garrards remains unknown, nor is it known if each of the sons and daughters received a coin (both daughters but only two sons survived Jacob Garrard when he passed away on 5 November 1931). The mintage presumably could not have been more than 7 sovereigns, or 9 if one each was retained by the parents.

Aside from the wretched condition of the reverse dies received after the long sea voyage, which apparently caused Mint officials to decide against their use, why were fresh dies not ordered? Why is the coin so rare? The answer appears to be that the post-WWI metals market fluctuations rendered coinage of gold impractical. The report of the Royal Mint issued on 31 December 1920 notes that the quoted value of gold per troy ounce as of 5 February 1920 was 127s 4d per ounce (Note 2). This meant that the cost of minting a single gold sovereign with a face value of 20 shillings was over 30 shillings. The Royal Mint suspended minting sovereigns in 1917 until 1925 and the Canadian Mint ceased production of sovereigns in 1919.

Clearly the Sydney Mint decided to postpone gold coinage. In 1920, transmission of any such decision was incomplete when Jacob Garrard placed his special order, thereby unknowingly creating the greatest gold rarity of the British Empire.

There are only 3 other known examples of the 1920S sovereign sold on the open market:

The first, sold by Spink and Son (Australia) Pty Ltd, 2 November 1978, lot 631, nearly extremely fine, ex A H F Baldwin collection, realized AU\$3,600 hammer price; then sold by Spink and Son, London, 15 March 1992, lot 438, good extremely fine, realized £104,000 hammer price.

The second, a specimen or proof striking sold in the Quartermaster collection, Monetarium (Australia) Pty Ltd, 4 June 2009, lot 196, FDC, realized AU\$800,000 hammer price. This coin has been struck from a good reverse die as opposed to the other four which all appear to be from a rusty reverse die.

The third, ex Jaggards, Sydney Australia, retail list, February 1979; then sold by Kurt Jaggard Monetary Auctions, Australia, 11 April 2006, lot 404, realized AU\$582,500, purchased by Winsor and Sons, Jamberoo, NSW Australia; then sold in the Bentley Collection, Baldwins, 27 September 2012, lot 736, practically as struck, realized £650,000 hammer price.

Note 1

See biography— Jacob Garrard (1846-1931)—Australian Dictionary of Biography. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/garrard-jacob-3595>.

Note 2

See Royal Mint Report 31 Dec 1920. Appendix No IX. - A. Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid's Circular on the movement of Gold and Silver during 1920. Page 72.

Reprinted with permission of St James's Auction, Auction 25, Wednesday 5th March 2014 *The George Collection*. Lot 5.

NI

Adelaide Pound: Types One & Two

St. James's Auctions



Australia, Victoria, Adelaide, pound, type one, fine edge milling, crowned date within beaded circle, dentillated pattern within the beading, legend surrounds the design declaring the issuer as the GOVERNMENT ASSAY OFFICE with a floral stop on each side of ADELAIDE at center bottom, rev. VALUE ONE POUND within a surrounding pattern similar to that of the obverse, weight and purity declaration occupying the surrounding legend space, die cracked at top of legend (KM.1; Fr.1; McD. Type I).



Australia, Victoria, Adelaide pound, type two, 1852, date below crown within border, rev. value within dentillated border (KM.2; Fr.3; McD. Type II).

The first gold rush in Australia took place near the town of Adelaide, with the usual effects of a discovery of great mineral wealth: at first the town was nearly abandoned by the rush to the gold fields, followed by an influx of unrefined ore which could not be easily exchanged for either official money or goods. Coinage bearing the monarch's effigy and authority could not be quickly implemented, nor would royal sanction be a certainty, so the local authorities—the banking manager and the colonial treasurer—

had little choice but to authorize a substitute money, technically a token struck in gold. If pure and good, it would be widely accepted alongside British coinage circulating in Australia. An act of coinage passed by the South Australian Legislative Council caused the creation of a Government Assay Office almost immediately upon passage of the Bullion Act, but its gold ingots were not practical nor assured of exact value. Towards the end of the year 1852, in November, the first ‘pounds’ were struck from fresh dies. Unfortunately, the reverse die failed almost immediately, cracking finely at the top of the legend from the inner beading to the rim to left of DWT. A new die of slight variation was quickly prepared and was used to strike almost all Adelaide gold pounds known today. By February of 1853, a scant four months after the experiment of minting at Adelaide had begun, the last of the Adelaide pounds had been struck—some 25,000 in all, almost the entire mintage being of the second dies combination. Most have perished, as is true of almost all kinds of ‘territorial’ gold coinages: first subjected to the abuses of ordinary commerce, damaged or fashioned into jewelry, and finally turned in for their gold content (for they were in fact finer than the standard sovereign) to be made into new coins. These first, tentative attempts at desperately needed money in Southern Australia have become much coveted by collectors worldwide. The Type One issue, of which it is believed that no more than 50 were minted, is both a great rarity and the very first gold coin struck in Australia.

Reprinted and abridged with permission of St. James's Auctions, Auction 25 *The George Collection*, 5 March 2014, lots 35 and 36. (Coin diameters 22 mm nominal.)

NI

“Sestertius” Medal of Claudius by Giovanni Cavino, the “Paduan”
Extracted from Varesi Numismatica



Sestertius by Giovanni Cavino the Paduan (XVI Century) bronze, 23.30g. (Image and description uses with permission from *Varesi numismatica* auction 64, 29 April 2014, lot 514.)

NI

Creative Scams Involving the “S” and Anchor Countermarks on the Santo Domingo 4 Maravedis Coins

Sewall Menzel, NI #2730

Jorge Proctor’s comments on the use of the “S” and “anchor” countermarks on the Santo Domingo Mint’s 4 Maravedis copper coins in the March/April 2014 issue of the NI Bulletin (pages 58-59) are well taken. But there is, indeed, more to the story that is worthwhile relating.

During the period of 1581-1582, the governor of Spanish Jamaica, Lucas del Valle, purchased some 500 pesos of copper coins in Santo Domingo at the rate of 25 “cuartos” (worth 4 Maravedis) per 1 silver real—about 100,000 cuartos total. He then returned to Spanish Jamaica and the town of Santiago de la Vega, where he declared that the copper coins were now worth 11 cuartos to one silver real. This revaluation from 1/25 to 1/11 netted him better than 100 percent profit and essentially doubled his purchasing power. The revalued cuartos were countermarked with the letter S to signify Santiago, an early name given to Jamaica by the Spanish during the time of Columbus “island of Santiago called Jamaica.”

Some years later, during 1611-1616, the abbot of Spanish Jamaica, Don Bernardo de Balbuena, attempted a similar scheme, bringing to the island some 2,000 ducats worth of copper coins or the equivalent of 750,000 maravedis (a total of 187,500 cuartos). These had been purchased at the rate of 51 cuartos to 1 silver real and then revalued in Jamaica at 7 cuartos to 1 real—a gain of some 700 percent! These pieces were then denoted by an anchor-style countermark.

Another frequently encountered countermark is the *key*-style. This was applied at the mint sometime in 1577 to devalue the badly worn 4 Maravedis pieces through circulation down to 1/2 their value or 2 Maravedis. These now circulated along with the standard 2 Maravedis coins that the mint struck off during those times. One can imagine the confusion that this, along with all the other countermarked coins, caused the population. As such, by the mid-seventeenth century, with the dearth of silver and copper available, the mint, other than conducting some basic assay functions finally called it quits and ceased to exist.

Sources:

Humberto F. Burzio: *Diccionario de la moneda hispanoamericana*, Vol. I

Francisco Morales Padron: *Jamaica Espanola*

Frank Cundall and Joseph L. Pietersz: *Jamaica Under the Spaniards*

Fray Cipriano de Utrera: *La moneda provincial de la Isla Espanola - documentos*

Archivo General de las Indias, Santo Domingo

NI

1701 Gold Escudo Hybrid of Santa Fe from 1715 Fleet

Herman Blanton, NI #LM115

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The “1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels, LLC” treasure salvage operations recovered a cache of gold escudos on 13-July-2013 on a site called “Corrigans” at Sebastian Inlet near Wabasso Beach, FL. Other artifacts including a silver spoon, olive jar pottery shards, musket balls and spikes were found in the vicinity. About a week later three additional coins were found. Of the fifty-one specimens all are one escudos save a lone two-escudo doubloon. Operations manager Brent Brisben submitted a two page report of this find, including a coin data table, which appeared in Ernie Richards’ PLVS ULTRA Newsletter 2nd Quarter 2014.

The fact that all save one of the specimens recovered from the hole are one-escudos is significant. According to historical documentation the one-escudo gold along with silver two-reales, one real and half real were to be produced for local use while the larger two-escudo gold and silver eight-reales and four reales were produced for export.

...para que se labren en ella escudos sencillos, reales de a dos, sencillos y medios, para que con esta moneda menuda se pueda tratar y comerciar entre los vecinos, quedándose en la tierra, sin que se pueda sacar de ella... Vuestra Majestad mandará lo que fuere servido. En Madrid, a 27 de noviembre, 1618. (Friede: document 2, p. 48)

It seems that this cache of one escudos may have been a privately owned treasure. Of course we may never know how it came that this group of one escudos was gathered in a sea floor crack.

The report highlighted a 1701 dated escudo from Santa Fe with a distinctive design. This immediately brought to mind another specimen whose attribution I’ve long held as problematic. This prior specimen was the only one known to me before Brisben’s report; it is Lasser and Restrepo M49S-1 (pp. 67, 131) where it is identified as Philip IV (reigned 1621-1665). This coin is not in the prior Spanish language version Restrepo and Lasser (1998) so it seems that Lasser come upon his specimen between 1998-2000. My doubt about the attribution is due to the design of the obverse shield which is quite unlike any other Santa Fe gold coin. With the publication of a clear photo of the 1715-Fleet Queens Jewels specimen and some thinking about it an attribution developed. In my review of the literature I found a concurring attribution published a decade ago (Menzel).

The designs of Spanish gold and silver intentionally differ from another by royal decrees. As a consequence of the Potosi scandal, in which the integrity of the silver coinage became an issue in global trade and an embarrassment to Spain, the king ordered a redesign of the silver produced in the viceroyalty of Peru. The royal decree of 22-December-1650 ordered a new design for the silver coins, that being the placement of the arms of Castile and León on one side and two columns on the other with the motto *Plus Ultra* in-between the columns (Proctor and Blanton). The Santa Fe mint complied with the decree beginning in 1651 even though there was no malfeasance there.

...ordeno la forma del cuño fuerte que no imite del de hasta aora sino que por la una parte se pongan las armas de Castilla y León y por la otra dos columnas

con el Plus Ultra en medio procurando que no sean relevadas y también sea de pone el año, la casa y el nombre del ensayador con gran distinción y claridad de manera que se pueda leer advirtiéndose se estampe muy bien los sellos de la moneda de suerte que se reconozca por ambas partes pues esto es tan conveniente para que tenga diferencia de las de antes...

Below are two 1701 dated Santa Fe one escudos from the recovered cache. One is a typical Santa Fe design (76469) and the other the subject coin (76510). The typical Santa Fe escudo of the 1715 fleet era has an obverse shield with Castile and León (castle and lion, two each) at the top left. At top right is the arms of Aragon/Two Sicilies where three vertical members of Aragon are constricted at the midpoint by two dots representing eagles. Along the bottom of the shield are three compartments; the center is a small shield of Flanders & Tyrol (which appears empty on this specimen) and either side are three lily flowers in the form of crosses (x). The subject coin 76510 has a shield as described by the decree of 1650 showing simply the arms of Castile and León; **this die is for a silver one-real coin.**



(76469) 3.5g

Typical Obverse / Typical Reverse

(76510) 3.5g

Error Obverse / Typical Reverse

Images courtesy Brent Brisben, 1715 Fleet – Queens Jewels, LLC

The reverses of these two are very similar, disputably the same die. Notice the four lily flowers appearing as crosses (x) positioned between the cross arms of the central design. The two-escudo reverse design at the time (c. 1700) used a more elaborate shape of lily flower resembling scissors. The simple cross design shows that one escudo dies were used for striking these specimens as opposed to two-escudo dies used on one-escudo planchets (coin blanks).

Following is an image of the Lasser one escudo, indubitably the same design as coin 76510.



Restrepo (2012) M49-2, image courtesy Jorge Emilio Restrepo



1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels #76510 obverse with legend overlay, value 1 horizontal at 3 o'clock and "CAROLVS II D.G." around. This die is correct for one real, not for one escudo, hence this one escudo is an error coin.

Below are two Santa Fe one reals of Charles II (reigned 1665-1700) designed according to the decree of 1650 with shield of Castile and León on the obverse. These are very rare so there are not many available for comparison. One of the coins is assayer Pedro Ramos whose term ended in 1676 and the other is assayer Pedro Garcia (1678-86, 1687-91).



Charles II, Santa Fe, assayer Pedro Ramos (PORS). 20mm. The obverse shield consists of 4 compartments with castles and lions inside. The mark of value "1" is positioned vertical and left of the shield.

B & C Subastas lot 237



Charles II, Santa Fe, assayer Pedro Garcia (PG). 18mm. The obverse shield consists of 5 compartments four of which have castles and lions inside and the fifth (triangular) compartment at the bottom with a dot representing a pomegranate. The mark of value "1" is horizontal and right of the shield. Notice that the ring of dots nearly, but not completely, encloses the value.

B & C Subastas lot 238

Summary

As I write this in June 2014 the 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels and Lasser specimens are the only examples of this error known to me. Based on the four compartment design, which omits the pomegranate, the Lasser specimen may have led some to attribute this coin to Cartagena. However, since the 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewel specimen is dated

1701 we can be sure it is Santa Fe as Cartagena closed in 1635 except for some weeks in 1655 when only silver was produced. Further study could be done to compare the castle and lion punches on the obverse with those used on the known one-real coins and to compare the reverses of coins 76469 and 76510. The State of Florida received coin 76510 in the division of treasure.

References [and citations found]

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NI

1622 Cartagena (Colombia) 2 Escudos, a Revised Census

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These coins were unknown to collectors before their discovery among the gold and silver coins recovered from the 1622 Spanish treasure fleet off the coast of Florida by Mel Fisher. All of these specimens are presumed to have been salvaged from the fleet which included the ships *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* and *Santa Magarita*. Until 1620 the Spanish crown prohibited the striking of gold coins in its American colonies; these 1622 dated specimens were struck under the 1620 authorization. I attribute these to Cartagena (*de las Indias*) and not Santa Fe (*de Bogotá*) for reasons too lengthy to explain here and this also is the accepted attribution, cf Restrepo (2012: 65-66). The next American mint to strike gold was Lima which made a few gold coins in 1659 & 1660 but these were not royally sanctioned, i.e., they were illegal strikes. It would not be until 1680 that another American mint, Mexico, was authorized. The exception to this being the first gold coin struck in America is *oro corriente*, which are atypical coins such as circulating gold ingots, ingot sections, etc. (Proctor 2007; Blanton 2011).

This coin type is a 22 karat gold two-escudo with a specified mass of 68 escudos/mark which is calculated to be 6.77 grams per piece (Blanton 2013). We classify the coin as Philip III because the ordinal on the coin is III. Technically the coin is Philip IV because his father Philip III had died the previous year 1621. The obverse has the Habsburg shield with crown above. Superimposed on the Habsburg shield is Portugal (high) and Flanders & Tyrol (low). The reverse has a Cross Potent (four cross bars at the ends of cross) with lily flowers between and surrounded with four arcs doubled and four small rings.

Obverse legend: “❖PHILIPPVS•III•D•G❖” around, “•SF•” left and “•II•” right.
Reverse legend: “•HISPANIARVM•REX 1622”

This census is built upon Richards' listing (1989, 2002 and 2012) arranged chronologically according to the individual specimen publication and updated with my observations. The Spink America specimen (1997) in Richards (2002: 11) is renamed the Swiss Bank specimen (1991) as it predates Spink America and added to the list is the Lasser specimen (1992). In fact, the impetus of this revised listing was my observation that the specimen Lasser (1992: plate 13, no. 1) illustrated is a distinct specimen not included in Richards' census. The Lasser specimen was donated to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and with their permission we publish fresh images of their coin.

Lasser Specimen



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Gift of the Lasser Family



(#1) Calicó Specimen
Image Courtesy of Aureo & Calicó

- Plate coin:** *Monedas Española desde Juana y Carlos a Isabella II, 1504 a 1868* by Calico, F., Calico, X., Trigo, J., Barcelona, 1985 (6th edition), as Type 15a, No. 36a, p. 118. According to the catalog description this is the first specimen known and the first image published. “Unico ejemplar conocido y por primera vez ilustrado.”
- Plate coin:** *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 7, No. 4, 4th Quarter 1989, p. 3 “Specimen One – 1622 Bogota 2 Esc.”
- Plate coin:** *Las Monedas Españolas desde Fernando e Isabel a Juan Carlos I años: 1474 a 1998* by Ferrán Calicó, Xavier Calicó y Joaquín Trigo, Barcelona, 1998 (9th edition), as Felipe III Cartagena Tipo 17, núm. 38 p. 207 (formerly Santa Fe).
- Plate coin:** *Las Monedas Españolas, Del tremis al euro, Del 411 a nuestros días* by Adolfo, Clemente y Juan Cayón. Madrid: 1998. p. 614 Tipo 81a No. 4745.
- Plate coin:** *Macuquinas de Colombia (The Cobs of Colombia, South America)*, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo and Joseph R. Lasser. Medellín: 1998. p. 4 no. M10-1B.
- Plate coin:** *The Cob Coinage of Colombia 1622-1756* by Joseph R. Lasser (and) Jorge Emilio Restrepo. New York: Pertinax Press, 2000. p. 40 no. M10C-1B, p. 133 no. M10C-1B.
- Plate coin:** *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 “Calicó Specimen”
- Plate coin:** *Cobs, pieces of eight and treasure coins: the early Spanish-American mints and their coinages, 1536-1773* by Sewall Menzel. New York: American Numismatic Society, 2004. p. 385 (top right).
- Plate coin:** *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista* by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2006. p. 69 M10-1B.
- Plate coin:** *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 2nd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2007. p. 69 M10-1B.
- Plate coin:** *Numismática Española, Catalogo General con Precios de Todas las Monedas Españolas Acuñadas desde los Reyes Católicos hasta Juan Carlos I, 1474 a 2001* by X. Calicó. Barcelona: 2008, as Felipe III Cartagena Tipo 11, núm. 16 p. 246.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2008 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 3rd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2009. p. 69 M10-1B.

Plate coin: *Escudos macuquinos, Imperio Español, Catálogo 2 Escudos*, Web Edition (*CatalogGeneralParaWEB2.pdf*) by Rafael Tauler Fesser. 2011. p. 38 No. 74. On-line <http://www.onzasmacuquinas.com/pdf/D-FIII-2ESC.pdf>, p. 41 No. 74 (accessed 2013.11.22).



(#2) Sedwick Specimen 1

Image Courtesy of Daniel Sedwick LLC

FUNTopics Winter 1984 (unconfirmed). A publication of Florida United Numismatist.

“Ejemplar de 2 escudos 1622 Santa Fe hace ‘brujitos’ en Miami” in *Numis-Notas No. 44*, edited by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: Círculo Numismático Antioqueño, Febrero 1985, pp. 1-2.

Illustrated: “Informe Adicional 2 escudos 1622 Santa Fe” in *Numis-Notas No. 45*, edited by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: Círculo Numismático Antioqueño, May 1985, pp. 1-2, 4.

Plate coin: *The Practical Book of Cobs* by F. Sedwick, Florida 1987, p. 61

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 7, No. 4, 4th Quarter 1989, p. 3 “Specimen Two – 1622 Bogota 2 Esc.”

Plate coin: *Macuquinas de Colombia (The Cobs of Colombia, South America)*, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo and Joseph R. Lasser. Medellín: 1998. p. 4 no. M10-1C, p. 93 no. M10-1 (right).

Plate coin: *The Cob Coinage of Colombia 1622-1756* by Joseph R. Lasser (and) Jorge Emilio Restrepo. New York: Pertinax Press, 2000. p. 40 no. M10C-1C, p. 133 no. M10C-1C.

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 “Sedwick Specimen”

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista* by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2006. p. 69 M10-1C.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 2nd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2007. p. 69 M10-1C.

Plate coin: *The Practical Book of Cobs 20th Anniversary Edition (Fourth Edition)* by Daniel Sedwick and Frank Sedwick, Florida 2007, p. 127

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2008 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 3rd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2009. p. 69 M10-1C.

Plate coin: *Coins of Colombia (Spanish Colonial and Republican) 1619-2012 (Monedas de Colombia 1619-2012) Notes of a Collector*, Fourth Edition-First English Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2102. p. 66 M10-1.

No Image

(#3) Christie's Specimen (6.69 grams)

Ex: Christies Sale June 14 & 15, 1988 lot 113

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 7, No. 4, 4th Quarter 1989, p. 3 "Specimen Three – 1622 Bogota 2 Esc."

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 "Christie's Specimen"



**(#4) Swiss Bank Specimen
Image Courtesy of UBS**

Ex: Swiss Bank Corporation, Auction 27 *The Emilio M. Ortiz Collection of Spanish Colonial and Spanish Coins*. Basel, Jan 24, 1991, lot 71.

Plate coin: "Las primeras monedas Colombianas" by Jorge Emilio Restrepo in *Boletín Numismático* 53 1er Semestre 1992, pp. 3-6 (ill. p. 4).

Ex: Spink America (A member of the Christie's Group) *The Norweb Collection of Brazilian, Bolivian, Colombian and Chilean Coins*. New York, Monday, 3 March and Tuesday, 4 March 1997, Lot 275.

Plate coin: *Macuquinas de Colombia (The Cobs of Colombia, South America)*, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo and Joseph R. Lasser. Medellín: 1998. p. 4 no. M10-1A, p. 93 no. M10-1 (left).

Plate coin: *The Cob Coinage of Colombia 1622-1756* by Joseph R. Lasser (and) Jorge Emilio Restrepo. New York: Pertinax Press, 2000. p. 40 no. M10C-1A, p. 133 no. M10C-1A.

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 11 “Spink Specimen”

Plate coin: *Cobs, pieces of eight and treasure coins: the early Spanish-American mints and their coinages, 1536-1773* by Sewall Menzel. New York: American Numismatic Society, 2004. pp. 384 & 385 (top left).

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista* by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2006. p. 69 M10-1A.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2006 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 2nd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2007. p. 69 M10-1A.

Plate coin: *Monedas de Colombia 1619-2008 Apuntes de un Coleccionista*, 3rd Edition, by Jorge Emilio Restrepo. Medellín: 2009. p. 69 M10-1A.



(#5) Lasser Specimen
Image Courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Gift of the Lasser Family

Plate coin: 1992. “The Cobs of Cartagena, 1622-1655” by Joseph Lasser in *American Journal of Numismatics Second Series* 3-4 (1991-2), pp. 117-122, plates 13 no. 1.

Museum Collection: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation accession number 2010-63, 111.



(#6) Danny Lee Specimen

Image Courtesy of Ponterio & Associates, Inc.

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 28, No. 4, 4th Quarter 2002, p. 3 (6.75 g) and p. 11 “Lee Specimen”. According to this article the coin was certified by Treasure Salvors in 1982 as recovered from the Santa Margarita.

Ex: Ponterio 2003 Auction 124 lot 1237. Jan 17-18, 2003 (NY International).



(#7) Ponterio Specimen

Image Courtesy of Ponterio & Associates, Inc.

Ex: Ponterio 2008 Auction 146 lot 872. April 25-26, 2008 (CICF)

Plate coin: “Nuestras primeras acuñaciones” by Jorge Becerra L. in *Boletín Numismático* 84 1er Semestre 2008, pp. 26-27 (ill. cover & p. 26).

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 30, No. 2 (2nd Quarter, 2012): 4.



(#8) Sedwick Specimen 2
Image Courtesy of Daniel Sedwick LLC

Ex: Sedwick TA3 lot 23 May 29, 2008.

Ex: Sedwick TA6 lot 41 Oct 15-16, 2009.

Plate coin: *Escudos macuquinos, Imperio Español, Catálogo 2 Escudos*, Web Edition (*CatalogGeneralParaWEB2.pdf*) by Rafael Tauler Fesser. 2011. p. 38 No. 74a. On-line <http://www.onzasmacuquinas.com/pdf/D-FIII-2ESC.pdf>, p. 41 No. 74a (accessed 2013.11.22).

Plate coin: *PLVS VLTRA Newsletter* Vol. 30, No. 2 (2nd Quarter, 2012): 4.

Treasure Salvors Incorporated certified as Artifact 178-M-80 (meaning the coin was recovered from the Margarita site in 1980). The certificate is dated 1 Nov, 1982 from the *Santa Margarita* by the Fisher salvage team. The certificate has the mint field as “SF” the date field as “16- -” and weight at 6.75 grams.

Database records

Coin No.	Denom.	Mint	Reign	Assayer	Coin Date
80M-107	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	1622
80M-121	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	1622
80M-157	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	162#
80M-178	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	16##
80M-180	2 Escudos	Santa Fe de Bogota	Philip III	F 1622	1622

These records found for 1622 Santa Fe de Bogota Philip III 2 Escudos did not have photos but they ought to match coins for this census (now or yet to be observed); 80M-178 is census #8. Mel Fisher’s Treasures Historic Shipwreck Research Database accessed 2013.11.28. <http://www.melfisherartifacts.com/>

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NOTE: Other citations and photos are likely published and more will most likely appear in the future.

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Quiz Answers

- 1 The *truxe* was the movable die while the *pila* was fixed.
- 2 It limits metal flow outward, so the finished coin has a regular shape. It also puts a design on the edge such as reeding or lettering
- 3 A “piercing die” is used post-strike – the upper die is a punch and the lower die is an aperture to receive the removed metal. The resulting burr on the trailing edge of the hole is removed by chasing. Note that coins with holes generally have a wide rim to rest on the lower die so no relief is mashed
- 4 It was alloyed with copper to make bronze.

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